



US ARMY 20TH SUPPORT COMMAND

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives

INFORMATION SHEET



Overview

On Oct. 16, 2004, U.S. Army Forces Command activated the 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives), also referred to as CBRNE Command. This organization will provide full-spectrum CBRNE response in support of military operations and civil authorities.

The definition of CBRNE operations is those actions that detect, identify, assess, render-safe, dismantle, transfer, and dispose of unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices and CBRNE hazards. These operations also include decontaminating organic personnel and property exposed to CBRN materials during response.

Analysis of the multitude of asymmetrical threats facing our nation, both at home and abroad, revealed a need to realign and expand the Army's CBRNE assets and capabilities. As part of the Global War on Terrorism, we face the threat of rogue nations with weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs as well as the potential for multiple WMD attacks in our homeland. These threats increased the requirement for the unique services provided by assorted WMD response assets spread throughout the Army.

The CBRNE Command consolidates those one-of-a-kind assets under a single operational headquarters located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Combining these assets under one headquarters provides more effective and responsive command and control of CBRNE specialized operational assets, eliminates redundancies, and allows more efficient management and employment of unique limited resources.

The organization provides CBRNE response support to the homeland and other Regional Combatant Commands and leverages sanctuary reach back linking subject matter experts in America's defense, scientific and technological communities with deployed elements and first responders. When fully operational, the command will also possess a deployable chemical and biological analytical capability to provide timely, more accurate analysis of unknown samples and a near real-time chemical/biological-monitoring platform. This minimizes the risk to on-scene personnel and affords leaders timely information to issue guidance and make decisions.

The subordinate elements of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE), including the 52d Ordnance Group (EOD), 22d Chemical Battalion (formerly the Army Technical Escort Unit), and the newly established 110th Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) have been and/or will continue to support Combatant Commands and the Homeland in operations and contingencies throughout the world. The command will continue to leverage those subordinate units and provide the Army with a scalable response capability with the flexibility to operate in a variety of environments, from urban areas to austere sites.

Future growth of the command includes the activation of an additional Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group with three subordinate battalions, Chemical Brigade headquarters and an additional chemical battalion, and an Analytical and Remediation Directorate.

At full operational capability, the CBRNE Command will provide the nation and the Army with a robust response force capable of responding to the full spectrum of CBRNE and WMD operations.

RESPOND. ASSESS. MITIGATE. ELIMINATE.

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